

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

WALNUT TOWNSHIP, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OH - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

11420 Millersport Rd., Millersport, OH 43067

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2024 – 7:00 PM

Township Officials present:

Trustees Terry W. Horn, William R. Yates, Douglas G. Leith and Fiscal Officer (FO) Amy Amspauagh were present.

Department Heads/Staff present:

Roads & Parks Supervisor - Nate Wagner; Fire Chief - Robert Price; Zoning Inspector - Mike Berry; Township Administrator - Tammy Oliver

Commission Representative - Robert W. Slater II; and Property Maintenance Inspector - Kelly Smith were absent.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Trustee Chairman Yates.

Number of members of the public present: 7 as recorded on Sign-in sheets.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Approval of Minutes:

Trustee Leith made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the September 3, 2024 Regular Meeting with corrections. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Trustee Leith made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the September 5, 2024 Hearing Meeting with corrections. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Trustee Leith made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the September 5, 2024 Special Board Meeting with corrections. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Financial Report – Fiscal Officer, Amy Amspauagh: Township Administrator, Tammy Oliver:

Tammy stated that we are working on those and that July is balanced. And we are working on August and it is taking some time. Tammy asked if we could have a special board meeting the end of October to do our amended appropriations and prep for final appropriations for 2025. Amy opened a 1-million-dollar CD at Vinton County Bank for 7 months at 4.85%. Closed out the two CDs at Commodore bank because they were just being rolled over at .5% for many years. Those funds are now at Vinton County Bank in public large funds (second) checking account. We plan to deposit some funds into Star Ohio of 1 to 1.5 million dollars into that account. We deposited \$500 into an EMS account at Vinton County bank. The Auditor were here and we found a dormant account for \$10,000 that was not on the books. Amy also closed the Money market at Vinton County bank and deposited it to the second checking account. The first account will be what our bills are paid from and we will transfer money from the second account to the first as needed.

Trustee Horn made a motion to allow the Fiscal Officer, Amy Amspauagh to invest money as she sees fit to Star Ohio, Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Tammy is meeting with Nathan Wagner & Chief Price are going to work on their appropriations for 2025 next week. Tammy found several checks that did not clear and stated she would like to put a stop payment on the checks. Trustee Horn moved to authorize the stop payment on the three checks, Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Comments from the public:

Daria Arbogast from Fairfield Beach Property Owners stated she wanted Nathan Wagner to speak about the project before she spoke. Nathan stated that the Fairfield Beach Property Owners do a Trunk or Treat at Fairfield Beach every year. They run crockpots all to 1 circuit. The group had TWC come out and look at running four circuits to exterior outlets that Nathan can turn on and off. Daria then spoke about the financial aspect of the project. Original estimate was about \$1,000, and the Township cost would be about \$300.00 and was hoping the township could help with the cost. Trustee Horn moved to pay \$500 to help pay for circuits for Fairfield Beach Park. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The Thurston major wanted to personally thank The Fire Chief and Trustee Horn for writing very nice letters on Thurston's behalf for grants. And thanked us for our support.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Township Fire Department - Chief Robert Price;

Chief Price stated there were 123 total runs in September 2024.

Chief Price stated that they are staffing 631 and 633 (Thurston), and data is showing that most runs come from those areas. They do not have the funding to fund all three stations. The boat has been pulled out due to Buckeye Lake being low. We still have a jet boat at station 1 in case we get an emergency on the lake.

He stated he and Tammy are working on getting Acumed up and running. There is a lot of paperwork to do. He is still shooting for November 1st to go live. Change Healthcare had a cyber-attack that happened on February 19th and the Fire Dept has not received any EMS billing money from that point on. Acumed, once they get up and running should be able to go back and recoup most of the money from the point of the attack for us. He did say it may be not be until December 1st that we get Acumed to start but still shooting for November 1st.

He is working on getting their Fire inspection program up and running. FF Taylor Smith is taking the lead on putting everything together. Basically, the fire inspection is getting pre plans for all the businesses in Walnut Township so they can pull up plans of the business they are going to and know where all the utilities are for gas shut off, electric shut off etc. FF Taylor is out getting these plans started and does do inspections while he is there.

House Bill 47: Chief Price said for 4 AED units for a 1- year lease would cost \$1,396. And the case that the unit goes in would be \$339.96 and the total would be about \$1,855 per year for all 4 units. The company would take care of the unit by maintaining it and inspecting it. The units are connected wireless to the fire dept and sheriff office. The heated outdoor cabinets for the AED are \$449 each for a total of \$1,796. This does not include the electric to hook them up.

Zoning – Mike Berry

18 permits issued in September: 2 home, 4 additions; 2 sheds; 1 fence; 3 decks; 6 variances; 17 letters went out about the 6 variances. 6 Violations

Returned 75 phone calls.

Had two short term rentals that the prosecutor now has information on. Mike is sending evidence to her and the neighbors have kept very good notes on these properties giving most of the evidence.

Property Maintenance – Kelly Smith

Kelly was not in attendance.

Parks and Roads Supervisor – Nate Wagner; Parks:

Nate stated that Truck or Treat is October 19th at Fairfield Beach, we are not a sponsor. He will be pulling the Porta potty after this event.

We have a dead Elm tree at Huffman park that is 80 Feet tall that was brought to his attention. Removal would have to come from general fund. The cost would be \$3,100 to remove. It would be another \$500 to remove the stump. Trustee Leith made a motion to spend \$3,100 to take the tree down and another \$500 to remove the stump from Mid-Ohio and accept their estimate. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Roads:

Nate received the final bill from Shelley Co. for this year's paving project \$413,685.79. Original estimate amount was \$434,000 and some change. So, we came in under. Nate asked for approval to get them paid. He already has the PO done for this project. Trustee Horn moved that we pay for the road work. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Nate mention the annual salt letter and contracts for Thurston, Millersport, and Pleasantville. Trustee Leith made a motion to send the 24-25 salt bid prices that we have to the Village of Pleasantville, Village of Millersport and the Village of Thurston as we have done in the past with no additional charges, whatever it cost us. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. Motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Nate stated that Geiger Road, east of Cattail Road is still closed for bridge repairs. Bickel Church Rd. between Millersport Rd and St Rt. 37 will close October 7th for bridge repair. He will notify Liberty Union & Walnut Twp. Schools of the closings.

Nate has been working on the five- year paving plan. It has every road in the township on a sheet of last time they were serviced and when I plan to service them next.

The key lock boxes have been put on all the Township doors. Have one left we will put on back door and Then want to get another for upstairs for records room.

Walnut Twp. Administrator-Tammy Oliver

There has been a lot going on. Tammy said that she and Amy would like to go to a seminar on October 24th in Columbus on investing. It will take care of one of Amy's certifications that she needs, the cost is \$100.00. Finished up the audit this week and Tammy has three sheets of documents to find for them. And if we cannot find them the auditors are just going to write us up. Should get final report by end of October.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Fairfield Beach Signs update:** Stakes are in and all the previous signs are down. We should start seeing signs up by the end of the month. There are four sign spots left out of ten. Trustee Horn wants to put a temporary 12 x 18 sign out by new signs on a metal post letting people know how to advertise their business on the new ten slot sign.

2. **Dennison properties cleanup at Lakeside & Dennison Junk Motor Vehicles removal updates –** Trustee Horn stated that both are finished.

3. **Tornado Shelter update**– Nate stated that the gas line is in and getting really close to punch list. Still have not heard anything about water treatment system. Trustee Yates wants to do a walk through and proof of siren going off when the doors unlock and the contractors approve their work.

4. **Salt Storage Facility update:** The rafters are up and should be finished at the end of the month.

5. **Grants:** Trustee Horn stated the Community Project U.S.- EPA \$1 million grant that he is still working with the grant lady. On the Ohio One-time investment program, that been approved and waiting on the money. The \$500,000 will go into Township. Ohio Capital is for \$1 million and Trustee Horn is working with ODNR Administrator and there will be a 2% cost to us. Waiting on agreement and then he would like to pay MS Consultants out of that grant if we receive the funds in time. If not then we will have to pay MS Consultants out of the One Time Investment, \$500,000. If we do receive funds, then he would like to invest the \$500,000 into a CD. Trustee Yates suggested investing the \$500,000 into Star Ohio.

6. **Lakeside project:** Trustee Horn spoke to Karnie and there was a public viewing of the right of way acquisitions. Eric was out there with the Commissioners and there were questions. Karnie volunteered to have a re-cap meeting with the public and go back over the findings with everybody. And let them know what is going to happen as the money comes in for the project. Thinking of doing mid-December, possibly the 10th, 11th, or 12th and check with the school to see if it is available for a 7pm meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Donations:** Chief Price went over the donations to the Fire Department. He stated we received from Sinclair Media II a 2008 Freightliner and a 2008 Dodge with Titles. The Millersport Lions is for our time we spent up there at the Sweet Corn Festival. And they also received a check from the Millersport Chapter 301 OES to honor 9/11. Thank you notes will be sent to each of these groups for their donations. Trustee Leith made a motion to accept the donations. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

2. **Non-Compliance properties:** 13309 Oak Rd (Bennett 24-13) Trustee Horn moved to give Kelly Smith permission to send the above listed address to Lancaster Director's Office for review & possible court action. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

3. **Renewal of the OTA Education Subscription for 2025 (\$250.00):** Trustee Leith made a motion to approve. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

4. **Discussion on contracting with SILCO Fire & Security for Township Building for Fire Alarm system and Security Monitoring system:** Trustee Yates suggested tabling until next meeting.

5. **Approve Daria Arbogast, Zoning Commission Alternate, to replace Jim Upp, Zoning Commission member who resigned in August 2024:** An alternate would need to be appointed. Trustee Horn moved, Daria Arbogast to the open position formally held by Jim Upp. With that term ending in December 2025. Trustee Leith seconded the motion, The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

6. **Discussion on purchase of Fire Department Ladder Truck:** Chief Price said with completion of Dam and the building of new three- and four-story houses on West Bank, North Bank, South Bank Rd and Crystal Cove at Fairfield Beach. He and Tammy have been working on the finances to see if we can afford it. He has contacted different manufactures. A company called and came out and showed them a ladder truck that just came off the line and previous company truck was built for, decided they did not want it or need it. Normally it takes 36-48 months to order and receive a truck. This truck is available

right now. It is 107- foot, single axle with a 2000 gallon a minute pump on it and 500 gallons of water. Financing, contract and specs have been run through the prosecutor's office. We are going to have to replace a couple current trucks in the next couple years. A resident of Fairfield Beach had concerns that if they cannot staff Fairfield Beach station then we are not going to be able to pass a Fire Levy. We advertise for new fire fighters, but cannot find anybody willing to work. Trustee Horn made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the truck. Trustee Yates seconded the motion. Motion passed with 3 yes votes.

7. **Corrections of salaries:** The auditors found that during 2022 and 2023 the Trustees were not being paid correct salary. Former FO during those years did not pay the Trustees correctly. Trustee Leith made a motion that we go with what the State Auditors recommended, by law. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Additional Comments from the public:

There were no more comments.

8. **Boat Dock repair:** There are two boat docks that need repaired. Trustee Leith said we have cause to tell these two owners that their docks need repaired. We can use some of the boat dock fees to pay for half the cost of the repairs.

Trustee Leith made the motion to move to executive session Economic Development and invited Thurston's mayor, Gina Matos at 9:45 pm. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Trustees returned to regular session at 10:20 pm.

Trustee Leith moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues per ORC 121.22 at 10:21 pm. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. Motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Trustees returned to regular session at 11:02 pm.

Discussed bumping Tammy's pay based on her additional duties since she had her last pay increase. Trustee Horn moved that we move Tammy's Salary to \$60,000 per year as of October 1st. Tammy will be paid and additional \$7,000.00 for her extra duties through the end of 2024. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. Motion passed with 3 yes votes.

We discussed again about fixing the salaries for 2023 & 2024 for the Trustees and Fiscal Officer. And Tammy will check 2022 also.

Adjournment: At 11:08 PM, October 1, 2024 Trustee Leith moved to adjourn. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Minutes Recorded By: Tammy Oliver

Amy Amspaugh, Fiscal Officer

William R. Yates, Chairman

Terry W. Horn, Vice Chairman

Douglas W. Leith